

EWA Technical Review Panel: Organization and Workings

Presented to the ISB
September 2004 Meeting

Members of EWA Review Panel

James Anderson (salmon) – University of Washington

Edward Chesney (fish ecology) – LA Univ Marine Consortium

Holly Doremus (law) – UC at Davis

Donald Erman (ecology) – UC at Davis

James Cowan (fish and fisheries) - LSU

David Freyberg (engineering) - Stanford

Helen Ingram (sociology and policy) – UC at Irvine

Stephen Monismth (engineering) - Stanford

Pete Rhodes (ecology) – South Florida District (retired)

Kenneth Rose (spokesmodel) - LSU

Barton (Buzz) Thompson (law) – Stanford

James Cloern (ecology) – USGS (stopped after 2002)

Operations of the EWA Review Panel

- Meet annually in late Fall
- First three meetings were incremental
- Fourth (November 2004) is cumulative in anticipation of a long-term EWA

Charge (2002)

- Overall concept of EWA
- Actions (uses of water and fish protection) and justifications for these actions for the past year

Charge (2002) – Comment

- Responses to last year's report
- Recap and interpret this year's actions
- Science issues arose or dealt with
- Strategy for improving the science of water management in the Delta
- EWA's future: purchasing, decisions, definitions of environmental water
- Status of science for species and ecosystem: use of models
- Information needs for advancing the science of EWA

2002 Review - Positives

- Improved documentation
- Creative water acquisition
- No exceed take limits
- Upstream use of water in American River
- Cooperation
- Two workshops
- Revised Juvenile Production Estimate and decision trees

2002 Review Recommendations

- Expanding responsibilities with limited water
- Better integration (e.g., EWA and ERP)
- More analyses
- Define measures of performance
- Resource constraints
 - Water
 - Personnel
- Six specific science challenges

2003 Review - Positives

- Documentation
- Acquiring water
- Avoidance of fish crises
- Cooperation
- Workshops
- Serious consideration of recommendations

2003 Review: New Challenges of Long-Term EWA

- Manage long-term opportunities and risk
 - flexibility in acquiring and using water
 - risk in inter-year needs and third parties
- Demands for increased accountability
 - fish responses

2003 Review Recommendations

- Continuation of annual reviews
- Documentation and program-wide review
- More integration with other programs
- Move from take to populations (EWA and BO's)
- Increased money and people resources
 - especially for quantitative analyses
- Also see 2002 recommendations

Draft Charge –Fourth Review

Evaluate and comment on the technical justifications (scientific information and analyses) for the conclusions and actions from the first four years of EWA operations.

Draft Charge – Fourth Review

Evaluate and comment on the adequacy and appropriateness of the recommendations and process for developing a long-term EWA.

- Are there critical studies or tools necessary for the development of along-term EWA?
- Are there additional considerations or uncertainties that should be addressed?

Draft Charge – Fourth Review

- Not to yield judgments about the success or failure of EWA
- Not to obtain a specific recommendation on whether EWA should continue
- Recent workshop as part of preparation for fourth EWA review

Concluding Comments

- Panel has matured along with EWA
- Perhaps most difficult science issue is defining success
- Reviews are viewed with respect and interest